

# Hoping their garden grows

Sustainable Duxbury  
presents plans  
to selectmen

By Bill Fonda  
BFONDA@CNC.COM

It's not in Iowa, and Shoeless Joe Jackson isn't going to come and play, but members of Sustainable Duxbury have their own "field of dreams" in the form of a community garden.

"We figure if we build it, people will come," Jim Savicki, Sustainable Duxbury's co-chairman, told selectmen Monday night.

Savicki said the plan is for the garden to be at town-owned property in Swanson Meadows, in part, he said, because the other alternative, Bay Farm, was not as well hidden.

"It would be a very visible, easy-to-vandalize site," he said of Bay Farm.

Savicki said the Swanson Meadows property has been cleared quite a bit in recent years, and that there is room for 10 to 12 cars to park on a cul de sac. He said the initial plan calls for 34 plots, although the actual size would depend on the amount of fencing used.

Sustainable Duxbury member Bob Merrifield said the plots would be 10-by-20 feet and could be split between two people, although one would have to be in charge.

"That would be enough vegetables to feed a family of four," he said.

And all those vegetables, Merrifield pointed out, would be organic.

"There are going to be no pesticides whatsoever," he said.

Merrifield called gardening his second passion, after teaching. He lives near Swanson Meadows and said he is willing to volunteer to help.

"I have devoted my entire life to gardening," he said. "I love teaching, and I have taught a series of garden classes. If I have my own plot, I'll be on-site almost every day."

One potential problem is providing water to the site. Savicki said Sustainable Duxbury has tried to contact one neighbor about water, and that the issue would not be a major one as long as there is a supply not too far away.

"You can install a hand pump, and you can almost do it yourself," he said.

According to Savicki, 12 to 15 people have already signed up for the community garden.

"It's a wonderful thing throughout the country," said Sustainable Duxbury co-chairwoman Judi Vose. "I'm really excited about trying to get community gardening going."

The land is managed by the conservation commission, which is scheduled to meet with Sustainable Duxbury April 21. Selectman Christopher Donato said the garden sounds like a great idea if neighbors, the agricultural commission and the conservation commission are on board.

"I don't see any drawbacks," he said.

For information on the community garden, call Vose at 781-934-3283 or Anne Baird at 781-452-7016.

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